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# MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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A summary of significant events of  
interest to USDA management

Issue #15  
FEB 14 '79 July 11, 1975

## MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

PROCUREMENT  
PRESENT

## MANAGEMENT COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OF JULY 10 MEETING.....

### DUE DATES.....

\*\*\* ADS/Management Council Conference items from Downingtown, Pa. meetings. A summary of the action items was distributed to council members at the July 10 meeting.

-- Agency needs, concerns and suggestions regarding ADS' role in department-wide systems design and development work are OVERDUE in ADS.

-- Agency suggestions and comments on proposals contained in the Task Force Report on ADP Billing Structure are OVERDUE in ADS. This is a key element for FY 1977 rates.

\*\*\* Agency suggestions about major issues that departmental staff office operations should consider next fiscal year are due in Mr. Bolduc's office WITHIN 10 DAYS. Mr. Bolduc plans to discuss the suggestions with the Staff Office Heads in forthcoming meetings.

REMINDER.....A special Management Council meeting on agency assessments for next fiscal year will be held on Thursday, July 17, 1975 in Room 218A from 1 to 2:30 pm. Further details, including position papers for new programs and additional information about selected programs, will be distributed from Mr. Bolduc's office early next week.

### FUTURE MEETINGS.....

--- Dennis Boyd is scheduled to address the Council on August 7. He will discuss, on a step by step basis, what has been done, is being done and remains to be done to implement the action items that the Council recommend at the NFC/Management Council meeting in New Orleans, La.

--- A mid August session is being developed to discuss the Department's Working Capital Fund assessments. Further information will be supplied.

--- A listing of significant subjects for discussion at Management Council meetings during the next quarter is being developed for distribution.

LARGE COMPUTER PROCUREMENT FOR USDA IS REACHING FINAL STAGES OF EXAMINATION BY CONGRESS.....A special session of the Management Council will be called if major changes to the current plan are suggested.

USDA AGENCIES PLAN TO MAKE MORE USE OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (CEP).....New provisions of CEP allow students employed under the program to be converted to permanent full time professional positions without getting on the CSC register. CEP provides USDA with the opportunity to easily hire competent, trained employees at a minimum cost and provides the student with financial means of completing their education. OP will provide agency employment officers with listings of schools with Cooperative Education Programs upon request.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDS RESERVED FIRST COME FIRST SERVED VISITOR PARKING AND FUNDING BY PRINCIPAL USER AGENCIES TO SOLVE COURT 4 ILLEGAL PARKING PROBLEMS.....Primary using agencies will fund cost of full-time parking attendant.

FINAL REPORT OF COUNCIL'S PROJECT OVERHEAD SPECIAL STUDY OF TRAINING DISTRIBUTED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS.....The report, adjusted for council members' comments, recommends improved control, planning and coordination of USDA training programs. Follow up procedures to implement the recommendations will be developed and distributed shortly.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, OA INSTALLED AUTOMATED SYSTEMS FOR MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT AND BUDGET OPERATIONS.....

- The Management Improvement System tracks audits and their findings and time spent by OA employees on specific projects. In addition to supplying better management data, the system will aid in supplying agencies with summary data on audit findings.
- The Budget System enables OA's six regional offices and its headquarters to have instantaneous information concerning expenditures and obligations against their budget.

(Contact: William Forsythe, OA, ext. 77671.)

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

OEO TO BEGIN FY 1976 INDIAN SURVEYS IN SEPTEMBER.....OEO Indian Desk and Special Indian Task Force will begin FY 1976 Indian Surveys with a visit to the Navajo Tribal Reservation in Arizona followed by visits to Sioux in South Dakota, the Cherokee in North Carolina and Seminole in Florida. The objectives of the reviews are to determine how USDA programs can be of benefit to American Indians, to offer technical assistance and to insure that Indians are aware of other program benefits such as loans, food stamps, etc., for which they maybe eligible. (Contact: Miles S. Washington, Jr., OEO, ext. 74256.)

# RECENT LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS.....

THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTED THE 1976 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL..... Floor action on this Bill is scheduled for Monday, July 14. The significant changes in the bill are as follows:

- GSA space rental costs were again reduced by 10% across the board. In addition ASCS, FmHA, and SCS appropriations for space were reduced by an additional 10% because of lower rental costs in rural areas.
- The following programs proposed for elimination in the 1976 Budget were restored:
  - AMS - Payments to States
  - ACP (including the Forestry Incentives Program)
  - Water Bank Program
  - Special Milk Program
  - Women, Infants, and Children supplemental feeding program
  - Direct distribution of commodities to Institutions
  - Farm labor housing loans and grants
  - Mutual and self-help housing grants
  - Rural Community Fire Protection Grants
  - The SRS programs for statistics on White Corn Mushrooms, Mink, Floriculture and Hog Surveys
- Public Law 480 program was reduced by \$246 million to reflect commodities programed for Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.
- Commodity Credit Corporation reimbursements for losses were cut by \$189 million.
- The Office of the Sales Manager was strengthened through language in the bill.
- A limitation was placed on activities in the Working Capital Fund.
- The Committee added FmHA loan funds to cover earlier legislation authorizing FmHA to make loans in towns of 10 to 20 thousand population.
- Operating loans were up by \$100 million. Water and Sewer loans were increased by \$70 million.
- Electric loans of REA were increased by \$132-282 million.
- Telephone loans of REA were increased by \$110 million.
- SCS new construction starts eliminated in the 1976 Budget were restored and additional funding was added.

(Contact: C. Jewell, OMF, ext. 76176.)



## DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

### FY 1976 CONTINUING RESOLUTION CONTAINS UNIQUE FUNDING PROVISIONS.....

- Specific dollar amounts are directly appropriated for the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Grant programs and the Youth Conservation Corps program.
- Food programs are funded at the rate mandated by law.
- Several programs proposed for termination in the FY 1976 budget are continued at the FY 1975 rate.
- Balance of USDA's programs are funded at the lower of FY 1975 or FY 1976 budget rate.

(Contact: Dennis Kaplan, OMF, ext. 76176.)

THE FOREST AND RANGELAND RENEWABLE RESOURCES PLANNING ACT OF 1974 REQUIRES THAT FOREST SERVICE RELEASE THEIR DRAFT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IN MID AUGUST.....The act, also known as the Resources Planning Act (RPA), calls for long range planning by FS to ensure that the U.S. has an adequate supply of forest resources in the future, while maintaining the quality of the environment. The law requires that a report be submitted to Congress by December 31, 1975 and be updated in 1979 and at 10-year intervals after 1979. The report must include a Renewable Resource Assessment, and a long range Renewable Resource Program. FS's budget must provide for the planning and funding requirements of the Act or explain where it does not. FS has to follow the environmental statement process and release a draft program to the public for review and comment. Final recommendations for FY 1977 cannot be made until the FS has considered the public comments on the draft program. (Contact: Gerald Larson, OMF, ext. 73255.)

## ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

MOTOR VEHICLE MILEAGE RESTRICTIONS TO CONTINUE.....FPMR Temporary Regulation G-17, Supplement 1, extends the 15 percent reduction (below FY 1973) in motor vehicle mileage through FY 1976. Assistant Secretary Wright will issue implementing instructions. (Contact: Kim Boyer, 00, ext. 77557.)

AUDITORS RECOMMEND STEPS TO IMPROVE ENERGY CONSERVATION REPORTING.....At the request of the Office of Operations, the Office of Audit recently reviewed agency energy conservation practices and mileage reporting systems. The OA report shows a need for more effective energy conservation action and more accurate reporting. 00 will issue highlights of deficiencies and define corrective actions needed. (Contact: Kim Boyer, 00, ext. 77557.)